

Application No. 09/889,862  
Filed: July 23, 2001  
TC Art Unit: 1733  
Confirmation No.: 1507

REMARKS

Claims 1-9, 11-13, 19, 41-44, and 55 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Olry et al. '217 in view of Olry et al. '348. Claims 1-13, 16-19, 25, 26, 41-44, 48-50, and 55 have been rejected under § 103(a) over Walsh in view of Olry et al. '217 and Olry et al. '348.

Claims 21, 23, 24, 28, 29, 45, 51, and 52 have been indicated as containing allowable subject matter.

Independent claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of claim 21. Dependent claim 21 has been amended to reincorporate the subject matter previously added to claim 1. The Examiner indicated that claim 21 contained allowable subject matter because none of the prior art of record taught or suggested the assembly of the fabrics in the manner recited followed by the formation of a hole in the assembly prior to densification of the preform and subsequently closing of the hole with a plug. Applicant submits that the subject matter deleted from claim 1 does not change this assessment of allowability, as it does not relate to the forming of a hole prior to densification and subsequent closing of a hole with a plug. Accordingly, claim 1 and the claims dependent therefrom are believed to be patentable thereover.

Applicants note with thanks the indication that claims 22 and 56-68 are allowed. Withdrawn claims 30-40, 46-47, and 53-54 have been canceled.

Claim 9 has been rejected under § 103(a) over Olry et al. '217 in view of Olry et al. '348 and further in view of Shepherd et al. Claim 10 has been rejected under § 103(a) over Olry et al.

Application No. 09/889,862  
Filed: July 23, 2001  
TC Art Unit: 1733  
Confirmation No.: 1507

'217 in view of Olry et al. '348 and further in view of Thebault. Claims 14 and 15 have been rejected under § 103(a) over Olry et al. '217 in view of Olry et al. '348 or Walsh in view of Olry et al. '217 and Olry et al. '348 and further in view of Monget et al. and Cahuzac. Claim 27 has been rejected under § 103(a) over Walsh in view of Olry et al. '217 and Olry et al. '348 and further in view of EP 913,504 and any one of Metter et al., Kondo et al., or Holcombe et al. These claims are believed to be patentable for the reasons set forth above with respect to claim 1, and no further comment thereon is believed necessary at this time.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, all claims are believed to be in condition for allowance, and reconsideration and indication thereof are respectfully requested. The Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned attorney to discuss any matter that would expedite prosecution of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

JEAN-MICHEL GUIRMAN ET AL.

By: *Beverly E. Hjorth*  
Beverly E. Hjorth  
Registration No. 32,033  
Attorney for Applicants

WEINGARTEN, SCHURGIN,  
GAGNEBIN & LEBOVICI LLP  
Ten Post Office Square  
Boston, MA 02109  
Telephone: (617) 542-2290  
Telecopier: (617) 451-0313

BEH/dbb  
305804-1

-15-

WEINGARTEN, SCHURGIN,  
GAGNEBIN & LEBOVICI LLP  
TEL. (617) 542-2290